

JEAN ELIOT'S CHRONICLES OF CAPITAL SOCIETY DOINGS

New Year Day Seems Doomed As Institution

DEAR SUSAN: Happy New Year! There is no interesting time as New Year's Day, and with 1919 in the offing, one can't help but wonder what the next twelve months will bring. God willing, by the dawn of 1920 Peace, now knocking at the world's door, will be established firmly, and the healing hand of Father Time will have bound up the bloody wounds of this most tragic of all years. Then, indeed, may we say "Happy New Year!"

As for New Year Day, its doom as an institution, a peculiarly pleasant and picturesque institution, would seem to be sealed. Time was when every official in Washington, beginning with the President, kept open house: when every noisier with the slightest claim to social consequence received during the afternoon hours; when every debutante, who could be called a "success," was asked to assist at the home of one or another of the Cabinet officers; when every man who owned—or could beg or borrow—a morning coat and a top hat made a business of going calling; and when the streets were alive with army officers, in full dress regalia and rough gold lace, making the rounds after paying their respects to the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy.

President Wilson kept the first blow to tradition during his first year in the White House, when, with a characteristic disregard for precedent, he called off the annual New Year Day reception at the White House, perhaps the most typically American institution ever inaugurated in Washington.

Then the war in Europe made it impossible for the Diplomatic Corps to be entertained as a unit, and the annual breakfast with the Secretary of State as host and the members of the corps as guests, which had for years been one of the most brilliant functions of the day, followed the White House reception into the discard.

The Cabinet officers kept up their reception for some time longer, but when the United States entered the war the custom was dropped pretty generally. And this year it seems likely that the Secretary of War and Mr. Baker, who have always heretofore been at home to the officers of the army stationed in Washington, will not receive. Mr. Baker would like to keep open house, but she has been ill for a long time, and is getting back her strength but slowly, so Mr. Baker is rather putting his foot down upon her undertaking anything so strenuous as a big reception. She may receive, however, if she feels strong enough.

It was refreshing to learn late last week, however, that Secretary of the Navy Daniels and Mrs. Daniels had decided to receive on New Year Day at their home. The three admirals—Mr. Rodman and Rogers—with



BARONESS BONDE,
Wife of the Secretary of the Legation of Sweden, and their son, who was born in Washington last May.

MISS JEANNE BANKHEAD,
Daughter of Congressman William B. Bankhead and Granddaughter of Senator and Mrs. John H. Bankhead, who made her debut on Friday.

MRS. MEDILL MCCORMICK,
Wife of Congressman McCormick, who is soon to be Senator McCormick. She is chairman of the recently organized Republican Women's Executive Committee.

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their wives, and the captains of the ten warships now at New York, with their wives, will be in the receiving line. It's pleasing to learn of the decision in favor of holding the reception, for Mrs. Daniels gives such a nice party, and his a pleasant way of taking the curse of formality off such a function. Whenever she gives a reception, she installs an orchestra in the ballroom atop her house, fills

the place with pretty girls and leaves it to the navy to do the best in the matter of making everybody have a good time.

Edison Bradley Returns
No Reception This Year.

Mr. and Mrs. Edison Bradley, who spent the holidays in New York, returned to town late last night, but they do not intend to give their usual New Year's reception, a gala affair with dancing and an imposing list of guests, this year. At least Mrs. Bradley told me before she went away that she didn't and I haven't heard anything to lead me to believe that she has changed her mind. You see, their house is not in shape just now for entertaining on a large scale. Their great ballroom is dismantled and ready as a promenade for occupation by a staff of stenographers from the British embassy. The room, which was put at the disposal of the British powers that be, by Mr. and Mrs. Bradley, to relieve the overcrowded conditions at the embassy, may not be needed, now that the armistice has been signed, but at any rate it is at present fitted out for work instead of play.

Mrs. Johnston, wife of Brig. Gen. John A. Johnston, is another hospitable hostess who has made a practice of keeping open house on New Year Day whenever she was in town, but is making an exception to her custom this year, as General Johnston is in France. He is slated to return "soon," but that may mean a few weeks or a few months, and Mrs. Johnston has no very definite idea when to expect him. Her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Blair Spencer, spent Christmas with Mrs. Johnston and she also has with her for the holidays her two young-sons, Jack and Tommy Summerlin.

Charles S. Hamlin, of the Federal Reserve Board, and Mrs. Hamlin are among the few officials who will receive on New Year's afternoon, and there is also a reception "on" at the Congressional Club—just enough of the passing of New Year Day. To give an added fillip of interest to the Hamlin reception they will have with them their debutante daughter Anna Hamlin, who had her formal presentation to society earlier in the season, in Paris, which is still "home" to the Hamlins, and who may have another formal coming out here later on if a vacant date is to be found on the debutante's crowded calendar. Meanwhile she is having a series of very delightful dinner parties given for her and Mr. and Mrs. Hamlin will give a dance for her some time in January, probably during the visit of Major and Mrs. William Littauer's daughter, Louise Littauer, who is coming soon to stay with Miss Hamlin.

Despite the round of Christmas parties, dinners, tea parties, small

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Fancies, Fads, And Foibles of Capital Society

ington for many years, she had never mingled much with what we are pleased to call the "smart set," and had never been affiliated with official society, being content with her home charities—which were considerable—and the pleasant circle of good friends who were her friends. It was even said that the first formal function at the White House which Mrs. Wilson ever attended was the Pan-American reception in January, 1914, at which she made her first public appearance as the President's bride and the chaperone of the Executive Mansion.

And now, if you please, Mrs. Wilson is hobnobbing with crowned heads and going shopping with Queen Mary. Moreover, in the last two years she has acted as hostess to the most distinguished men of half the countries of the world, who have been entertained at Washington, meeting them in a friendly and informal way and learning to know them over the tea cups.

Wedding of Unusual Interest Tomorrow.

The marriage of Sara Price Collier and Lieut. Charles Fellowes-Gordon, R. N., set for tomorrow at noon in St. Thomas' Church—is an event of unusual interest for many reasons. Lieutenant Fellowes-Gordon has, I believe, the distinction of being the first of the large contingent of British naval officers, who have been in Washington, to wed; and he has won one of the most popular girls in town. The Price Colliers have only been living in Washington a little over a year, but they are regarded to ever so many prominent people, Franklin D. Roosevelt, the assistant secretary of the Navy, for instance, and all the Delano clan, and the girls had visited here frequently, so they received a royal welcome when they decided to become winter residents of the Capital.

The wedding is to be a gala event, with a matron of honor—Miss Collier's sister, Mrs. George Baker St. George, herself a bride of a little over a year ago—four bridesmaids, Louise Delano, the Hoar girl, and Mrs. Eleanor Winslow, in attendance on the bride and no less than two ushers to each girl. They're mostly service men, several of Lieutenant Fellowes-Gordon's shipmates on the M. S. Warrior, a British army officer or two, and several American naval officers; and since full dress uniforms are being taken out of camp for the first time since the war, there'll be a real touch of military pomp and ceremony to the scene. The two small sons of the Charge d'Affaires of Great Britain and Mrs. Coriellie Barclay will also be in the wedding party.

Preparation For Big Wedding Struggles Task.

A big wedding is a great task, and leaves a pleasant memory to be cherished for a lifetime, but it certainly does mean work; and to my mind there is a great deal to be said in favor of just slipping away and being married. And, of course, it makes confusion worse confounded when preparations have to be hurried, as they are being in the case of the marriage of Miss Collier and Lieutenant Fellowes-Gordon. The mere task of sending out invitations is an appalling one, for the Price Colliers have a wide acquaintance all over the East. They mailed some 600 invitations to New York alone.

The fact that H. M. S. Warrior, to

(Continued on Page Eleven.)

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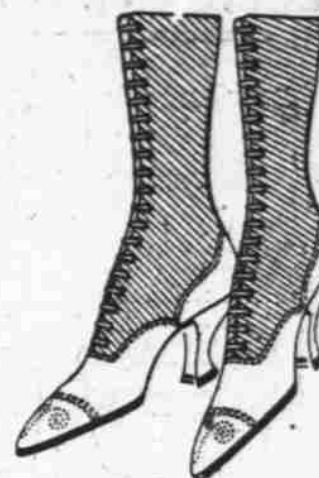
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